

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first end of the tube having a first inside diameter,

a narrow section of the tube having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube,

a tapered tube transition section between the first end and the narrow section, ~~and;~~

a second end having an inside diameter at least as large as the first inside diameter, and

a pump tube section having a third inside diameter which is larger than the inside diameter of the narrow section, wherein the narrow selection extends from opposite ends of the pump tube section, and wherein a combined length of sections of the tube having the first inside diameter and the third inside diameter is less than one half the length of the tube.

2. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the narrow section is a center-tube section not engaged with a pump.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the transition section is no greater than twelve inches in length.

5. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein a wall thickness of the tube is substantially constant along an entire length of the tube.

6. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the inside diameter of the narrow section is at least 0.060 inch.

7. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 further comprising a pump tube section adapted to engage a pump having a third inside diameter larger than the first inside diameter, and wherein a combined length of sections of the tube having the first inside diameter and the third inside diameter is less than one half the length of the tube.

8. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 further comprising a pump section having a third inside diameter is larger than the second inside diameter, and wherein a combined length of sections of the tube having the first inside diameter and the third inside diameter is less than one half the length of the tube.

9. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the first end is connectable to a connector

10. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

11. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube has a smooth transition from the first end to the narrow section.

12. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 31 wherein the first end and the second end are each connectable to a respective external connector.

13. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube is formed of a biocompatible plastic.

14. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the transition section is no greater than one foot in length and the inside diameter of the narrow section is narrower than 0.10 inches.

15. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first tube end of the tube having a first end inside diameter and a first end outside diameter;

a narrow tube section of the tube having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first end inside diameter and an outside diameter substantially narrower than the first end outside diameter, wherein said narrow tube section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube; and

a tapered tube transition section between the first end and the narrow tube section, and

a pump tube section having a third inside diameter which is larger than the inside diameter of the narrow tube and wherein the narrow tube section extends from opposite ends of the pump tube section.

16. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube has a wall thickness in the first end which is substantially the same as a wall thickness of the narrow tube section.

17. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

18. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

19. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first tube end of the tube having a first inside diameter;

a second tube end having an inside diameter at least as wide as the first inside diameter; and;

a narrow tube section of the tube between the first tube end and second tube end, and the narrow section having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube, and

a pump tube section having a third inside diameter larger than the first end inside diameter, and wherein the narrow tube section extends from opposite sides of the pump tube section.

20. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein an outside diameter of the narrow tube section of the tube is substantially narrower than an outside diameter of both the first tube end and the second tube end.

21. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube has a wall thickness in the first end which is substantially the same as a wall thickness of the narrow tube section.

22. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 21 wherein the tube has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

23. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

24. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the first tube end and second tube end are each adaptable to attach to a connector.

25. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube is entirely a biocompatible plastic material.

26. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 further comprising a transition section between the narrow tube section and each of the first tube end and the second tube end.

27. (Currently Amended) A method to pass blood through an extracorporeal blood passage comprising:

passing blood to the passage having a first inside diameter at a first end;

passing the blood through a middle portion of the blood passage downstream of the first end, wherein the middle portion has a cross-sectional passage area smaller than the first inside diameter;

passing the blood through a pump section of the passage which engages a pump wherein the pump section has a cross-sectional passage area larger than the cross-sectional passage area of the middle portion, and

passing blood through a second end of the passage having a second inside diameter at least as great as the first inside diameter.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 27 wherein the passage is a blood tube.

29. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first end of the tube having a first inside diameter,

a narrow section of the tube having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter;

a first tapered tube transition section between the first end and the narrow section;

a second end having an inside diameter at least as large as the first inside diameter,

a second tapered tube transition section between the first end and the narrow section, and

a pump tube section integral to the narrow section and adapted to engage a pump,

wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube and wherein said length of the blood tube includes the first end, first tapered tube transition section, narrow section, pump tube section, second tapered tube transition section and second end.

30. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first tube end having a first inside diameter;

a second tube end having an inside diameter at least as wide as the first inside diameter;

a narrow tube section between the first tube end and second tube end, and the narrow section having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube, and

a pump tube section integral to the narrow section and adapted to engage a pump,

wherein said narrow tube section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube and wherein the pump tube section is not included with the narrow tube section in determining whether the narrow tube section is at least one half of the entire length of the blood tube.

31. (New) A method to pass blood through an extracorporeal blood passage comprising:

passing blood to the passage having a first inside diameter at a first end;

passing the blood through a narrow section of the blood passage downstream of the first end, wherein the narrow section has an inside cross-sectional diameter at least 20 percent thinner than the first inside diameter;

passing the blood through a pump section of the passage which engages a pump, and

passing blood through a second end of the passage having a second inside diameter at least as great as the first inside diameter,

wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the passage and wherein the pump section is not included with the narrow section in determining whether the narrow section is at least one half of the entire length of the blood tube.